

17th March 1931]

### Local Boards and Municipalities

*Reservation of seats for Muslims on local boards and municipalities.*

\* 633-A Q.—**MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB Bahadur**: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is true that the Inspector, Local Boards and Municipalities, has reserved no seat for Muhammadans on the Guntur Municipality;

(b) whether it is true that the said officer has not reserved seats proportionate to the number and importance of the Muslim community, in the Municipal Councils and Local Boards in the Northern Circars and in the Guntur and Nellore districts; and

(c) if so, what steps the hon. the Minister proposes to take to put an end to the grievances of the Muslims in this respect?

A.—The Inspector's proposals in regard to the Guntur Municipality have not yet been received by Government.

**MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB Bahadur**:—"What is the basis of the reservation of seat for the minorities?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. **MUNISWAMI NAYUDU**:—"The question is still under the consideration of Government. The idea at present is to reserve to the minorities at least 50 per cent of the seats on the population basis. But of course other considerations will also have to be taken into consideration."

**Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN**:—"May I know if the hon. Minister is aware that there are complaints about this in the various institutions?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. **MUNISWAMI NAYUDU**:—"I do not know what complaints he is referring to?"

**Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN**:—"Complaints about the reservation and distribution of seats and also that the claims of minority communities have not been carefully considered and that the allotment has not been done properly."

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. **MUNISWAMI NAYUDU**:—"With regard to the proposals of local boards, complaints have been received that the reservation recommended are not sufficient. All these are now with the Inspector of Local Bodies who has been instructed to look into them."

**Mr. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR**:—"May I know what steps are being taken by the Government with regard to the proposals submitted by the taluk boards and municipalities so as to afford an opportunity to the public to offer their criticisms?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. **MUNISWAMI NAYUDU**:—"The proposals of various local bodies are received and we are getting petitions from members of the public. Proposals are being examined and sent to the local bodies for remarks."



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**MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB Bahadur** :—“ May I know if the hon. Minister can assure us that due proportion of seats in accordance with the population will be given ? ”

**The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU** :—“ Yes, Sir, it may not be that they will get the full number entitled under population basis. Under the Act one-fourth can be reserved but it will be impossible to allot full number of seats on population basis for each community. The utmost that can be done is to reserve 50 per cent of what they will be entitled to on the population basis.”

**Mr. DANIEL THOMAS** :—“ May I know whether the minority communities will get at least 50 per cent of the seats entitled on population basis ? ”

**The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU** :—“ I have already answered.”

**Mr. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR** :—“ May I know, Sir, what steps have been taken to place before the public the views of the local bodies.”

**The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU** :—“ I do not think it will be possible to place the proposals of the local bodies while they are merely in the discussion stage. Members of the district boards who are interested in it will know them. Any individual can write to Government and to the Inspector of Local Bodies on any particular matter and I assure that the points will receive consideration.”

**Diwan Bahadur C. S. RATNASABHAPATI MUDALIYAR** :—“ Are not the local bodies asked to publish the resolutions on the notice board and in the District Gazette ? ”

**The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU** :—“ I do not know if there are any such orders but resolutions of local bodies are published in the District Gazettes.”

**MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB Bahadur** :—“ In view of the fact that 50 per cent of the seats only will be made available to the minorities by this arrangement, will the hon. Minister see that wards are so distributed that from general constituencies also the minorities may be returned ? ”

**The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU** :—“ Any proposal by any member interested will certainly be considered.”

**B. POCKER SAHIB Bahadur** :—“ May I know whether the hon. Minister has issued instructions that 50 per cent of the seats on the population basis is guaranteed to minority communities ? ”

**The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU** :—“ I have already answered.”

**Mr. K. KOTI REDDI** :—“ In the case of the Adi-Dravidas, may I know how the Government will proceed as there are no separate figures for them in the last census ? ”

**The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU** :—“ The Inspector of Local Bodies has been able to ascertain in the taluks. I do not know how he got the information. On the basis of that he will proceed.”